

B1 nonstructural protein 4 (NS4 protein), wherein at least two antigenic epitopes are from the same region of variants of the same protein.

B2 13. (Twice amended) The mosaic polypeptide of claim 8, wherein the antigenic epitope of the NS5a protein comprises amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein.

Please add the following new claims:

26. (New) A mosaic polypeptide comprising one or more antigenic epitopes of each of the HCV core protein, NS3 protein, NS4 protein and NS5a protein

B3 27. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein the antigenic epitope of the core protein comprises amino acid residues 1-91 of the HCV polyprotein.

28. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein the antigenic epitope of the NS3 protein comprises amino acid residues 1471-1573 of the HCV polyprotein.

29. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein the antigenic epitope of the NS4 protein comprises amino acid residues 1789-1867 of the HCV polyprotein.

30. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 26, further comprising a second antigenic epitope of the NS4 protein, wherein the second antigenic epitope comprises amino acid residues 1916-1948 of the HCV polyprotein.

31. (New) The mosaic polypeptide of Claim 26, wherein the antigenic epitope of the NS5a protein comprises amino acid residues 2322-2423 of the HCV polyprotein.